

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CARACA 00586 162245Z

60

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 /061 W
----- 058999

R 162051Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7293

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 0586

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, VE, US, OAS

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN LEADER SOUNDS CONCILITORY NOTE

1. DR. GONZALO BARRIOS, PRESIDENT OF THE RULING ACCION DEMOCRATICA (AD) PARTY AND OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS, MOVED JANUARY 15 TO DAMPEN THE CONTROVERSY WHICH HAS BEEN GROWING BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND THE U.S. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE EDITOR OF THE LEADING CARACAS DAILY, EL NACIONAL, BARRIOS REFERRED TO THE "ANTAGONISMS" WHICH HAVE DEVELOPED BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND THE U.S., "PARTICULARLY OVER OUR POLICY OF PETROLEUM PRICES." BARRIOS SAID HE BELIEVED, HOWEVER, THAT "THE FRIENDSHIP OF VENEZUELA FOR THE UNITED STATES, AND FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, HAS THE FORCE OF HISTORICAL IMPERATIVE AND SHOULD PREVAIL IN THE END." BARRIOS ADDED THAT IT IS IN VENEZUELA'S POLITICAL INTEREST TO LAY ASIDE "ANY ATTITUDE THAT COULD BE INTERPRETED AS AN UNNECESSARY EXHIBITION OF BAD FEELING TOWARD THE AMERICAN PEOPLE."
2. CONTINUING, BARRIOS STATED VENEZUELA, WITHOUT PREJUDICING ITS OWN RIGHTS, "SHOULD ANNOUNCE PUBLICLY AND DEMONSTRATE THAT WE ARE NOT CONTEMPLATING DEVIATING FROM OUR TRADITIONAL TIES OF FRIENDSHIP WITH THE U.S. LIKewise WE SHOULD EXPECT THAT THE U.S. WOULD REPLY WITH A SIMILAR EXPRESSION OF FRIENDSHIP."

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 CARACA 00586 162245Z

3. CONCERNING THE UTILITY OF THE OAS IN THE PRESENT DISPUTE,

BARRIOS SAID, "BEFORE ASKING IF THE OAS IS AN ADEQUATE FORUM FOR THE STUDY OF INTER-AMERICAN PROBLEMS, ONE HAS TO REALIZE THAT NO OTHER EXISTS. THEREFORE THE ONLY SOLUTION IS TO USE THE AVAILABLE RESOURCE, WHICH IS THE OAS, IN ORDER NOT TO LAUNCH A DISCUSSION TO SOLVE OUR DIFFERENCES UPON A SEA OF CONTROVERSIES WITHOUT KNOW JURISDICTION."

4. CONSIDERING GOV POLICY ALTERNATIVES, BARRIOS SAID, "OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES DO NOT GIVE US THE RIGHT TO PLAY THE ROLE OF A GREAT POWER. HOWEVER, WE OUGHT TO USE THEM AS A DEFENSE AGAINST THEIR BEING BLAMED FOR WORLDWIDE INFLATION AND FOR DISTURBING THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, SINCE THEY ARE PART OF THE GREATER TORRENT IN THE HANDS OF THE ARAB COUNTRIES."

5. WITH REGARD TO VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR BURELLI RIVAS' CANDIDACY FOR THE SECRETARY GENERALSHIP OF THE OAS, BARRIOS SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE OF THE GOV POSITION. HIS OWN OPINION WAS THAT AN ATTEMPT BY VENEZUELA TO OBTAIN THE SECRETARY GENERALSHIP, IN VIEW OF VENEZUELA'S PERFORMANCE WITHIN THE OAS, "WOULD NOT BE DISCREET AND WOULD EXPOSE US TO CRITICISM WITHIN LATIN AMERICA." SHOULD A VENEZUELAN SEEK THE SECRETARY GENERALSHIP ON HIS OWN OR AS THE CANDIDATE OF SOME OTHER COUNTRIES, BARRIOS SAID VENEZUELA WOULD HAVE NO REASON NOT TO BE PLEASED AND "COULD CONSIDER VOTING FOR HIM."

6. TURNING TO U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS, BARRIOS EXPLAINED THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAD DENOUNCED THE COMMERCIAL TREATY BECAUSE OF THE INDISCRETION OF AN AMERICAN POLITICIAN WHO REVEALED THE EXISTENCE OF A GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT BETWEEN SECRETARY KISSINGER AND BREZHNEV FOR THE EMIGRATION OF SOVIET JEWS. "THE PROBLEM WAS THAT THIS LEFT BREZHNEV IN A BAD POSITION WITH HIS COUNTRYMEN." BARRIOS ADDED. "THE RUSSIAN LEADER HAD TO REACT TO THE AMERICAN INDISCRETION, HENCE THE DENUNCIATION OF THE TREATY." GIVEN THE MAJOR INTERESTS INVOLVED AND AFTER ALLOWING THE INCIDENT TO BE FORGOTTEN, BARRIOS THOUGHT IT PROBABLY THAT NEGOTIATIONS OVER COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WOULD BE RENEWED WITH THE QUESTION OF SOVIET JEWS LEFT TO ONE SIDE.

7. COMMENT: DR. BARRIOS IS A PERSON OF GREAT PRESTIGE IN VENEZUELA. AS AD PRESIDENT, HIS VIEWS REFLECT THINKING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 CARACA 00586 162245Z

AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE PARTY AND ARE LISTENED TO WITH RESPECT. THE FACT THAT HIS VIEWS HAVE BEEN GIVEN SUCH PROMINENCE AT THIS TIME IS PROBABLY A MOVE BY AD TO SOFTEN THE PRESENT CONTROVERSY BETWEEN THE U.S. AND VENEZUELA, OR AT LEAST TO ATTEMPT TO PREVENT IT FROM BECOMING WORSE, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S ANTICIPATED VISIT TO VENEZUELA NEXT MONTH.
MCCLINTOCK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, PARTY LEADERS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CARACA00586
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750018-0075
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750147/aaaabpjf.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 SEP 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VENEZUELAN LEADER SOUNDS CONCILITORY NOTE
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, VE, US, OAS, ACCION DEMOCRATICA, (BARRIOS, GONZALO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006